



Quick Read

In General

Holiday mailing deadlines set from Europe to CONUS:
Nov. 20- SAM Parcels
Dec. 4- PAL Parcels
Dec. 11- Priority Parcels, First Class Letters and Cards
Dec. 18- Express Mail

Belgium

Voting assisted

The primary location for voting assistance in the SHAPE area is the Central Processing Facility on SHAPE in Building 253. Point of contact is Joseph Troxell, DSN 366-6238 or email Joseph.Troxell@benelux.army.mil. The alternate location is Daumerie Caserne Building 30. Point of contacts are Maj. William Willis, DSN 361-5590, email: william.willis@benelux.army.mil or 1st Lt. April Davis, DSN 361-5154, or email: April.Davis@benelux.army.mil or contact your unit's Voting Assistance Officer.

ACS moves at NSA

ACS Brussels has moved to NSA Building 4 on the top floor, except for New Parent Support and Education, which is on the ground floor. Phone numbers are the same. Please use this list to locate your Program Managers:

ACS Fax, 02 717-9733, Room 321;
Jamie Taylor, ACS Reception/FAP Administrative Assistant, ext. 9783, Room 321;
Heather Reekie, Acting ACS Officer, ext. 9721, Room 322;
Heather Reekie, Soldier & Family Readiness, ext. 9693, Room 323;
Amélie de Rosée, Financial Readiness, ext. 9698, Room 325;
Jean-Luc Clarembeau, Employment Readiness, ext. 9735, Room 326;
Cathy Blumenthal, Relocation Readiness, ext. 9729, Room 302;
Isabelle Gillet, Program Analyst/Marketing, ext. 9643, Room 306;
Elsa Rodriguez-Roth, New Parent Support & Education, ext. 9684, Room 102, ground floor.

Netherlands and Germany

Culture celebrated

American Indian/Alaskan Native Heritage Month free food tasting and program are at Schinnen Sports Center Nov. 19, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Volunteers sought

Geilenkirchen Post Office needs volunteers to ensure that Santa's goodies are out on time for the holiday season. If interested in contributing a few hours, contact Master Sgt. Henry Gonzalez, 49 2451 63 2234

Benelux Meteor

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Dance to share your pride



Dallin Mabee performs Nov. 11 at Maisieres Hotel for American Indian/Alaskan Native Heritage Month. For more photos, see Page 8.

PHOTO: F. Neil Neeley

Five-finger discount is a ripoff

See page 4.





USAREUR commanding general sends guidance to troops, leaders

Bell Sends #5-04

Army Focus Areas

November 5, 2003

1. The Chief of Staff of the Army recently established 16 focus areas to concentrate the Army's efforts on winning the Global War on Terrorism and to increase the Army's relevance and readiness. Task forces at HQDA and Headquarters, United States Army Training and Doctrine Command, are developing campaign plans for each focus area. The 16 focus areas are as follows:

- **The Soldier:** Develop flexible, adaptive, and competent Soldiers with a Warrior Ethos.
- **The Bench:** Prepare future generations of senior leaders. Identify and prepare select Army leaders for key positions within joint, interagency, multinational, and service organizations.
- **Combat Training Centers/Battle Command Training Program:** Focus training at CTC and BCTP to meet the requirements of the current security context and of the Joint and Expeditionary Team.
- **Leader Development and Education:** Train and educate Army members of the Joint Team.

· **Army Aviation:** Make a holistic review of Army aviation and its role on the Joint battlefield.

· **Current to Future Force:** Accelerate the fielding of select Future Force capabilities to enhance the effectiveness of the Current Force. Army transformation is part of constant change.

· **The Network:** Leverage and enable interdependent, network-centric warfare.

· **Modularity:** Create modular, capabilities-based unit designs.

· **Joint and Expeditionary Mindset:** Retain our campaign qualities while developing a Joint and Expeditionary Mindset.

· **Active Component/Reserve Component Balance:** Align AC/RC within the current security context. Redesign the force to achieve a 15-day deployable Active Component force and contributing Re-

serve Component force that predictably deploys no more than one year in six.

· **Force Stabilization:** Ensure unit stability and continuity, and provide predictability to Soldiers and their families.

· **Installations as Flagships:** Enhance the ability of installations to project power and support families.

· **Authorities, Responsibilities, and Accountability:** Clarify decision-making and execution.

· **Resource Processes:** Redesign resource processes to be flexible, responsive, and timely.

· **Strategic Communications:** Tell the Army Story so that the Army's relevance and direction are clearly understood and supported.

· **Actionable Intelligence:** Redefine intelligence, instilling an Army-wide culture and mindset that *every Soldier is a collector* in

learning, adaptive organizations that leverage inherent intelligence capabilities.

2. The Army focus areas are important benchmarks of the Army's constantly changing efforts to remain relevant and to win the Global War on Terrorism. I encourage USAREUR leaders and soldiers to go directly to the Army Chief of Staff's website at <http://www.army.mil/leaders/csa/default.htm> to keep informed about the focus areas. More information on these focus areas will become available in November and thereafter. These are key to the future and should guide our efforts to change.

3. Give this message the widest possible distribution throughout the Army in Europe. I want all USAREUR leaders and soldiers to read it.



Gen. B. B. Bell

B. B. BELL
General, USA
Commanding

Bell Sends #4-04 2003 Combined Federal Campaign- Overseas

October 31, 2003

1. The 2003 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) - Overseas began on 1 October. The CFC is the only campaign authorized to solicit employees in the Federal workplace on behalf of charitable organizations. The motto of this year's campaign is "Make a World of Difference."

2. Each year millions of dollars are raised through the CFC for thousands of nonprofit charities, some of which directly support our overseas military communities. Through the CFC, Soldiers and civilians can designate donations for a wide

range of Soldier, civilian, and family support programs. By doing so, we can help support our total USAREUR family, including those who are deployed or about to deploy.

3. Caring for those less fortunate than us or who are in need of our help, both at home and around the world, defines the American spirit. The CFC is, more than ever before, a valuable and reliable program through which we can express that care.

4. I charge leaders and first-line supervisors at all levels to support this campaign in their organizations. Our campaign goal is for every soldier and civilian employee to have an

informed opportunity to participate in the CFC.

5. I strongly encourage everyone to give generously to the charity of his or her choice. Doing so will help "Make a World of Difference" for the Army in Europe.

B. B. BELL
General, USA
Commanding

Army Emergency Relief offers scholarship money

Post-secondary education ranks as one of the best investment deals available. Even with the cost of undergraduate education at an all-time high, the need is equally as high. It is important not to bypass an opportunity for financial aid. Army Emergency Relief (AER) offers financial assistance for undergraduate study for dependent children of Army retirees. Scholarships are awarded based primarily on financial need, secondarily on academic achievements and individual accomplishments. The only way to ensure your child will be considered for a scholarship is to mail all requested documents by the established postmark deadlines.

The Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Fund administered by AER is for students who study at an undergraduate, technical or vocational institution accredited by the U.S. Department of Education or for prepa-

ration for the service academies. This includes students who are contemplating enrollment for the next academic year, those already pursuing undergraduate post secondary or vocational studies, and those who are planning to attend these programs after high school graduation in 2004.

In academic year 2003-2004, 89 percent of all students with complete applications were awarded scholarship funds. AER assisted 2040 children of Soldiers with \$2,989,500 in scholarships ranging \$900-1900. Awards are provided annually for up to four years of undergraduate study. Unfortunately, this year approximately 1542 students missed the deadlines and were not considered for assistance.

A student applying for the 2004-2005 academic year may not reach his or her 23rd birthday before June 1, 2005. The applicant must be an unmarried dependent child of an

active duty or retired Soldier or a Soldier who died while on active duty or in a retired status. All Soldiers and students must be registered in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS). You can verify the student's status with DEERS RAPIDS at 1 800 538-9552, a toll-free call within the United States.

Applications for the AER scholarship program, 2004-2005 academic year are now available by mail from AER HQ until Feb. 21, 2004. The web application is available as hardcopy from the website or students may apply now online at http://www.aerhq.org/Children_Main_education.htm until March 1, 2004. Mailed applications and supporting documentation must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2004 for the 2004-2005 academic year. Other important deadlines are outlined in the scholarship instructions. Applications and supporting documentation are

not accepted by fax or email.

Letters mailed the week of June 1, 2004 will notify on-time applicants about scholarship awards. Scholarship funds are to be used for education costs including tuition, books and fees, or room and board while attending fulltime at the school accepting the funds. Students must reapply each year and be in good academic standing, with a minimum GPA of 2.0 on 4.0 scale.

There is a list of many websites with college information and financial aid resources on the Army Emergency Relief education web page, http://www.aerhq.org/education_collegelinks.asp.

To obtain an application by mail, forward your request to Army Emergency Relief, Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Fund, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria VA 22332-0600.

From a press release

Support your 2003 Combined Federal Campaign





No chauffage?

SHAPE Housing advises what to do just in case something breaks over the holidays.

The housing office closes Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 23, and reopens Friday morning, Jan. 2. You should expect many local businesses to also have holiday operating hours. Please prepare for these closures!

The number one problem for tenants over the winter months is “**NO HEAT**”. This can lead to damaged furnaces and plumbing systems, with repair costs of thousands of euros, paid by the tenant. Don’t be that guy!

Make sure your mazout tank is more than half full and know who to call, and what their phone numbers are – landlord, heating, plumbing, and electrical technicians, and your military chain of command. Start with your landlord when the housing office is closed. The key phrases to communicate “no something” to your landlord are:

I have no heat – “Je n’ai plus de chauffage”

I have no hot water – “Je n’ai plus d’eau chaude.”

I have no electricity – “Je n’ai plus d’électricité”

For emergency translation assistance, call the SHAPE police desk at DSN 423-3333 or civilian 065 44-3353. The MP desk at DSN 361-5301, civilian 068 27-5301 will also have a list of emergency technicians.

Protect your mazout from freezing with anti-freeze. There is paraffin in the oil that solidifies at low temperatures and clogs the distribution system. No oil, no heat!

Ensure annual chimney and furnace maintenance has been completed. Preventive maintenance stops problems before they become critical. And it’s the law.

Drain and close any outside water lines (garden faucets). Frozen water will break these pipes, causing flooding.

Ensure your bills are paid on time. The furnace must have electricity to work; if your electricity is cut off, you will have no heat.

Keep the heat set at or above 12 degrees



PHOTO: Ashley Nilius

Right on target

Austin Leftwich, 9, of SHAPE Cub Scout Pack 325 shows off his target at Belt Loop Bonanza Nov. 8. Scouts learned safety rules for using a BB gun before testing their aim. Six communities were represented by 103 scouts in grades 1-6.

(Celsius) and radiator settings at or above “2”. If your house gets too cold, the pipes will freeze, burst, flood, damage, expense.

Keep sidewalks clear of ice and snow.

If you do have a problem during the holiday season, be prepared to pay a lot of money to get it fixed. The laws of supply and demand are in operation. It’s better to take these

simple preventive maintenance steps and save yourself a great deal of time, money, and aggravation.

Visit the International Housing Office, Building 210, our websites at www.shapeonline.net/housing/tipsforwinter or www.shape.nato.int/ihsc-global/branches/CAB/housing.

Obtaining civilian treatment under TRICARE will be simpler for some procedures, enrollees

By Troy Kitch

Military medical treatment facilities (MTFs) in Europe will no longer issue nonavailability statements (NAS) to TRICARE Standard beneficiaries for non-emergency inpatient care after Dec. 28. This change is mandated by the U.S. congress and means Standard beneficiaries will no longer require an NAS prior to seeking most types of civilian inpatient care.

“Inpatient” is defined as care in which a patient is required to remain in a hospital or clinic for more than 23 hours. An NAS is a document issued by MTF officials to a Standard beneficiary certifying that a specific medical service is not available within the MTF at the time care is needed. If an MTF cannot provide inpatient care, the NAS authorizes a patient to receive care from a civilian source. This change in procedure means that Standard beneficiaries may receive most types of civilian inpatient care without prior authorization or documentation from an MTF.

In Europe, only TRICARE Standard beneficiaries will be affected by this change. TRICARE Prime beneficiaries will still require referral and authorization from their Primary Care Manager prior to seeking any non-emergency civilian care.

Standard beneficiaries who seek mental health care will still require a NAS from their servicing MTF after Dec. 28 before visiting a civilian provider for inpatient care. This will ensure proper reimbursement from TRICARE.

All beneficiaries seeking cosmetic, plastic, reconstructive, or

morbid obesity surgeries or treatments must contact their local TRICARE Service Center before a civilian provider performs any procedure. TRICARE coverage for these types of surgeries or treatments is very limited. The preauthorization requirement is a separate program from the NAS that ensures treatments sought by beneficiaries will be covered by TRICARE.

While TRICARE covers the vast majority of medical services, it is always wise for beneficiaries to check with their local TRICARE Service Center (TSC) staff prior to any inpatient or outpatient procedure. TSC counselors can verify coverage for a given procedure and advise beneficiaries about potential out-of-pocket costs for non-covered procedures.

Standard beneficiaries who require maternity care must ensure they receive an NAS from their servicing MTF if they receive any civilian prenatal care prior to Dec. 28. In this situation, patients require an NAS for outpatient care because the military health system groups outpatient and inpatient maternity care together to ensure continuity of care.

Note that nonavailability statements issued overseas are not valid in the continental U.S. and vice-versa. This means that if a Standard beneficiary moves to a new TRICARE region, a new maternity NAS must be issued by a servicing MTF in that new region. Standard beneficiaries who require maternity care prior to Dec. 28 are urged to contact their servicing MTF or nearest TRICARE Service Center for

assistance to avoid claim problems.

Patients who seek maternity care after Dec. 28 do not need an NAS and may seek care with any civilian provider in the TRICARE network. However, patients may face out-of-pocket costs if they choose a provider outside of the TRICARE network. TSC counselors remain

available to help patients choose the best possible care options.

While the NAS is an important document until Dec. 28, TRICARE Standard beneficiaries will no longer require it for most types of civilian inpatient care after this date. With the elimination of the NAS, TRICARE Standard beneficiaries

will enjoy greater choice where they receive health care. For more information, call or visit the local MTF or contact the servicing TSC. Contact information is available at www.europe.tricare.osd.mil.

Troy Kitch is director of Public Affairs and Marketing, TRICARE Europe





Petty crime creates major problems for all involved



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: Rick Haverinen

It takes only a few seconds to sneak a video game into a backpack, but if caught a shoplifter can lose much more than time.

By Rick Haverinen

While some may not regard shoplifting anywhere as a "serious" crime, it has grave consequences in the 80th Area Support Group.

Losses from the crime can be measured in dollars and personal damages.

"AAFES catches roughly 11,000 shoplifters each year throughout their system," said Ken Hughes, the 80th ASG's assistant civilian misconduct action authority, or ACMAA. In the last eight weeks we've had an increase in shoplifting (at the PX on Chièvres Air Base.) I really can't tell you why. All I can tell you is the commander, civilian executive officer and I are really concerned about it and we are taking action."

There are various personal costs of being caught shoplifting at a U.S. military post exchange in Belgium that involve three areas of liability, according to Hughes.

"You have the Belgian courts, you've got the administrative fees by AAFES and you have my office, the civilian misconduct office that also levies certain adverse actions," Hughes said.

Hughes explained because the crime happens on Belgian soil, the local national police and court system will have

criminal jurisdiction in a shoplifting case.

The AAFES administrative fee is \$200 for each shoplifting incident detected.

"The \$200 is an administrative cost and regardless of what is taken, one dollar or \$300, that will cost \$200," Hughes said. "Nobody can waive that, it's a congressionally-mandated law, and (the fee) must be paid by the person who stole (property from AAFES) or their parent or legal guardian. If they don't pay that within 30 days, AAFES privileges, AAFES Star Card, check cashing, etc. may be lost."

The civilian misconduct authority can administer a range of penalties depending on the severity of crimes committed by family members.

"Some of the actions we can take are loss of AAFES privileges, and that means throughout the entire European community, not just the Chièvres store," Hughes said. "If it's severe, we can send the entire family back to the States, or send just that person (committing the crime) back, we can curtail the (assignment) tour of the individual's family. We can bar that individual permanently from all USAREUR, USAFE, and overseas U.S. Navy facilities."

As frequently happens in stateside courts, the CMAA office can also direct community service work when civilian misconduct occurs.

"It can be anything from pulling weeds, picking up apples, or cleaning windows," Hughes said. "We usually try to assign that service on a week-

end. It varies in how the case is adjudicated, but it could be four hours, it could be two weeks. It depends on the circumstances involved. In fact, we have some folks that just completed community service about two weeks ago. I certainly can't mention any names but it seemed to get the point across."

Hughes said local theft incidents are reported to a central crime registry and retrieval of that information later on can adversely affect a hiring decision, for example.

"The bottom line here is, if you're even thinking about (shoplifting), forget it, because it's not worth it and you're going to get caught eventually," Hughes said.

Detection of property crime in AAFES stores is primarily up to store employees aided by technology, according to Debbie Galier, manager of the Chièvres Air Base PX.

"We have security cameras located all over the store," Galier said. "We have trained security personnel out on the floor watching (customers) and watching the camera monitors as well. We also have trained associates that know what to look for. They watch areas of the fitting room and things like that. So we have people all around who are watching to

prevent shoplifting."

Hughes said most of the people caught shoplifting at the Chièvres PX are juveniles 13-16 years old. Some said they weren't aware of the video surveillance that observed them in the act. Although not hidden, the camera systems are not obvious to the casual customer.

Galier is sometimes surprised by the ingenuity or greed of shoplifters caught at her store.

"They're pretty creative," Galier said. "There's been a lot of times when the MPs come to do the report when we maybe saw (a shoplifter) take a CD and a watch and they come out (also wearing) three or four shirts. They layer this stuff underneath and it would amaze you at what they can conceal. Sometimes it amazes me that the younger shoplifter is so well trained on hiding this merchandise. Some of these kids get creative. But it's not anyone in particular. It could be any age or any rank. We have military members that are caught shoplifting."

The last two property theft arrests at the Chièvres PX were store employees. Nationally, employee theft losses exceed customer shoplifting by more than 30 percent throughout the retail industry.

Statistics are not available for theft losses at Chièvres PX, but nationally such crimes account for an estimated \$32 billion annual loss to retail merchants, according to the National Retail Security Survey. The national average property loss was \$187 for each reported shoplifting crime committed in 2002 according to FBI figures.

In Stateside retail business, theft losses are ultimately included in merchandise price tags, meaning all customers using the store pay for the crime. Military communities also take a financial hit because of shoplifting, but less directly.

"The biggest thing that impacts us is the money we make in AAFES goes right back to the community in MWR dividends," Galier said, "and (this) store puts back about \$132,000 each year. So any of that merchandise that walks out of here unpaid for (means) the community's losing money."

Galier said shoplifting also affects the fate of the local store victimized by the crime.

"We have budgets and we have goals and we have accountability," Galier said, "and when that merchandise walks out of here, it really hurts



Hughes

the store."

Hughes said damage to families because of property crime goes beyond financial penalties.

"Certainly it's an embarrassment to the family," Hughes said. "We try to limit that embarrassment if it's a juvenile or a family member involved. We take action but we also want to give the sponsor a chance to do what he or she needs to work these things out."

"The bottom line is shoplifting's not worth it," Hughes said.

Financial readiness means being prepared for anything

By Carrie Smith

If no load, back load and front load sound like some sort of computer program, then it's time for you to take the "Savings and Investments" class offered by Army Community Service on SHAPE.

Learn to secure your personal finances and make your money work for you. There are four keys to successful saving and in-

vesting. Start saving now, save regularly, save and invest to reach your goals, and learn all you can about investing. The Financial Readiness Program at Army Community Service on SHAPE will show you how.

We all know that there is no such thing as getting rich quick. But by investing your money for the long term future, you

may earn more money than you thought possible. For example, invest \$166 per month at 10 percent interest compounded annually, and in 25 years you will have over \$200,000.

In addition to the Savings and Investments class, there are several other seminars available including Personal Financial Readiness, Using Credit Wisely, Insur-

ance: What is Best For You, Building a Spending Plan, Banking and Credit Union Services, Debt Reduction, Your Checkbook: More Month Than Money?, and Consumer Rights and Responsibilities.

Start investing in your future. Sign up for a Financial Readiness class today by calling DSN 423-4824 or civilian 065 44-4824.



254th BSB Triborder news

Art is more than what you do

By Sandy Aubrey

The bright blue eyes and quick smile are signs of her commitment and love of teaching.

Kathy Ter Veen is an art teacher at AFNorth International High School. She majored in psychology and minored in art in college. A psychology professor suggested she should save herself some trouble and choose between her major and minor, and she chose to pursue art.

Ter Veen is passionate about all art forms including modern and experimental painting, music and theater. She manages to see something interesting in almost all art.

"How can I not be excited when I've seen or heard something beautiful or unusual?" she says.

And it is just this enthusiasm that makes her art classes among the favorites at AFNorth International High School. Ter Veen aims to open students' minds to what they can sense, and urges them to examine experiences before drawing conclusions.

"My job as an art teacher is to get students to expand their borders of interest, what they like and who they are," she said.

Ter Veen has worked at AFNorth International School for 34 years. She remembers when the school was a



PHOTO: Sandy Aubrey

AFNorth International High School art teacher Kathy Ter Veen moves a student's sculpture for an exhibition. She encourages students to expand their borders of interest.

one-story building that was hastily built when Allied Forces Central Europe moved from Fontainebleau, France.

When Ter Veen graduated from the University of Northern Iowa she headed west to California. She got a job teaching in San Bernardino and in her spare time Ter Veen illustrated a medical book, devised the logo for the local United Way and designed theater costumes and sets. The pace could be exhausting and she says she'd often be at the theater until 4 in the morning and then had to get up to go to school at 8 a.m. But Ter Veen says she loved it.

"Youth has a way of generating its own energy and that energy is wonderful to experience," she said.

After three years in San Bernardino, Ter Veen decided to move to Los Angeles. She took a job as a social worker because she couldn't find a teaching position. The experience of working with people with social problems was

very revealing to a girl from Iowa and she says it was a year in her life that she wouldn't change for anything.

Speaking with a friend, Ter Veen mentioned she wanted to teach in Europe and the friend encouraged her to go to the source. After the conversation she sold her belongings, packed her bags and came to Wiesbaden to apply for a job. She was hired as a dorm counselor at Brunssum American School, and as the cliché goes, the rest is history.

In hindsight Ter Veen says it was this friend's husband who initially sparked her interest in art education and even gave her the clues to successful teaching.

"He was a choreographer and director in L.A. and watching him work with dancers and actors was just wonderful; to see how he could make each one feel important and capable," she said.

She married Ben Ikelaar, an artist trained at the Royal Academy of Amsterdam, and Ter Veen says he's been a tremendous influence in her work.

"In fact his influence is such that AIS is getting two for the price of one," she jokes. In their spare time they often take students on field trips to museums, concerts, operas and to do sketching.

As for future plans, Ter Veen is still undecided. However, when she retires, she and her husband will stay in the Netherlands where she'll work on her art, garden and visit all kinds of exhibits.

A uniform and badge are family tradition

By Sandy Aubrey

SCHINNEN, The Netherlands - An Army brat stationed at the 254th Base Support Bn. gives new meaning to the concept of time management.

In addition to her duties as installation Provost Marshal, Capt. Victoria Lynn Benson teaches at a local college and volunteers once a week with the Girl Scouts. A member of an international volksmarching club, Benson frequently treks around European trails as far-flung as Switzerland, Luxemburg and Germany. She's a travel buff and also finds time to hit the road on her Honda Shadow.

"I can't remember ever wanting to do anything other than being in

the military. If you had asked me if I would ever be a teacher, I would have said definitely not. And yet somehow I always managed to get myself in situations where I'm teaching and I love it," Benson said.

Benson teaches Legal Aspects of Law Enforcement, a college class at Central Texas College twice a week.

She says her greatest satisfaction is seeing her

students' faces when they understand a concept or get to apply

theory to real life.

Her involvement with Girl Scouts started when she was old enough to be one.

"When I was growing up it seems like I was always a Girl Scout," Benson said. "It was like a security blanket because being in a military family, we moved a lot. It was good to know there was a place I could go where I'd meet friends with common interests."

As an adult, she's been involved with the Girl Scout program through-



Benson

out most of her military career.

"The adults who interacted with me as a Girl Scout were strong leaders and I looked up to them as role models," Benson said. "Frankly, I'd like to give something back."

Benson joined the military in 1991 as a Soldier. She earned a bachelor's degree in 1994 and in 1997 she was accepted to Officer's Candidate School.

She's since earned two master's degrees, one in public administration and the other in criminal justice. She credits much of her successes to her parents who she says were her biggest supporters. Her mother's career was making a home for her husband throughout his 20 years in the Army. After Benson's

dad retired his first uniform, he picked up another with a 15-year stint as a police officer in Lodi, Calif.

"My dad died in March and I miss him every day. I still find myself wanting to pick up the phone or email him about some interesting law enforcement event or situation," she said.

The fast-paced lifestyle of this Soldier winds down in the late evenings when she kicks back and enjoys the company of her housemate, Poppy, an 85 pound, 16 month-old German shepherd.

"Poppy's been in the Netherlands longer than I have and together we're trying to walk every inch of this beautiful country."

Town hall meeting gives residents opportunity to catch up

SCHINNEN, The Netherlands - The 254th Base Support Bn. hosted a full house at the Oct. 29 Town Hall meeting that offered local residents an opportunity to hear the latest news from community leaders.

The Directorate of Public Works provided an overview of constructions projects, including the two-way road and entrance reconstruction; playground equipment in the picnic area; basketball court cover and Sports Center terrace cover that will allow more space on the second floor; relocation of the Self Help Store; Commissary renovation; and, Transportation Motor Pool and Vehicle Processing Center overhaul

and relocation.

The Provost Marshall's Office briefed the status of the Installation Access Card System and its impact at Air Force and Army installations in Europe. The 254th requires two forms of DoD identification until the hand-held scanners arrive, but other installations in Europe are requiring the IACS registration to enter installations. To register, visit the PMO at Building 2, Schinnen.

Post Exchange manager Rick Fair brought the audience up to date on changes that occurred since summer, including the opening of the gas station at 8 a.m. on Saturdays;

being able to buy gas coupons at the gas stations; air conditioning in all PX facilities; and getting cash back using debit cards at the registers.

The 254th BSB Safety Officer reminded community members of their individual responsibility towards safety, and provided winter driving and home safety tips.

The Directorate of Community Activities announced basketball and cheerleading registration that started Nov. 3; weekends at the Plaza with bowling and wide-screen TV sports; the Tree Lighting Ceremony Dec. 4 at 5:30 p.m.; and Child and Youth Services activities.



SHAPE and Chièvres Community Calendar

Life Skills Enhancement sessions are offered by Army Community Service on SHAPE Nov. 12-14. To sign up call DSN 423-4352.

Crystal bingo is Nov. 20, 7 p.m., Shape IC club, open to all shape I.D. card holders. Proceeds support Red Cross programs. Info: DSN 423-4008 or civilian 065 44-4008.

Application deadline is extended to Dec. 1. for the 2004 All-Army Wrestling trial camp. Contact Paul Boltz at commercial phone (717) 861-2647, DSN 491-2647 or paulb@mbcomp.com

SHAPE Family Life Center has a weekend seminar in Brugge dedicated to enriching your marriage and your relationship with your spouse Nov. 21-22. Suggested donation \$20. Info and reservations: DSN 423-5653 or 065 44-5653.

Holiday tree lighting is Dec. 5, 6 p.m., on Chièvres Air Base followed by free Santa photos for children at the PX. The Holiday Bazaar is scheduled Dec. 5-6, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.;

Dec. 7, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. outside the Community Activity Center on Chièvres Air Base.

Nikki Barr Band performs free at Prime Time Lounge Dec. 7, 5-6 p.m., and again 7:30-8:30 p.m. Open to all DOD ID Cardholders. No need to RSVP. Details: DSN 361-5540, or civilian 068 27-5540.

Time of giving families are needed to care for one or more unaccompanied military members during the holidays. This means having them over for a holiday dinner or a traditional family activity. You can also donate baked goods. Contact your unit for details, or call MWR, DSN 361-5470 or civilian 056 27-5470.

Catch Sunday night football at Prime Time Lounge, 6 p.m. Info: DSN 361-5540.

SHAPE Children's Players presents "The Wind in the Willows" Nov. 21-23, at SHAPE Entertainment Centre. For tickets call DSN 423-3312 or civilian 065 44-3312.

APOs announce holiday Schedule:

SHAPE APO Christmas hours, Nov. 22-Dec. 20, Monday - Friday 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday - 8 a.m. -12 p.m. Closed Sundays and holidays. Mail by appointment - four or more parcels, call 423-5165; Chièvres Air Base APO (in front of Andrews Federal Credit Union) Christmas hours, through Dec. 19, Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Saturday-Monday closed. Call DSN 423-4077/5164 for info.

Chièvres Commissary is closed Nov. 27. Normal operations return Nov. 28. at regular hours 10 a.m.- 7 p.m. Info: DSN 361-5044.

Chièvres PX hosts holiday specials Open Thanksgiving Day 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Nov. 28 open 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Daily specials Nov. 28-30, and every time you go through register, receive a 10 percent discount coupon which can only be used that weekend. The PX Bazaar will be at the tent in front of the CAC Dec. 5-7. Info: DSN 361-5100.

U.S. Army NATO dining facility

serves Thanksgiving dinner. Units will be assigned serving times. Tickets are required and will be available at the dining facility through Nov. 26. Cost \$5.25 each and \$4.80 for family members of E-4 and below. Check with your command for details or call the dining facility, DSN 423-4434.

Welcome Everyone to Belgium (WEB) newcomer office now has extended hours of operation. WEB is now open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - noon. Whether you're a newcomer, or even if you've been here a while, WEB is here to help you. WEB is located inside Hotel Maisières. Stop by or call DSN 366-6252 or civilian 065-326252.

Learn how to use the Belgian train system. "Take The Train," by Army Community Service, heads to Brussels Nov. 28 and Dec. 19. Trips depart SHAPE Building 318 at 8:30 a.m. Sign up by calling ACS at DSN 423-4332 or civilian 065 44-4332.

Karaoke with your friends Nov. 27

and Dec. 11, 8-11 p.m., at Prime Time Lounge on Daumerie Caserne. Euro 5 or \$5 per person; finger foods provided, cash bar, thousands of songs available. Open to all DOD ID card holders. Info: DSN 361-5540, or civilian 068 27-5540

Construction may delay shuttle bus: Due to construction through next summer along Rue D'Ath in Jurbise, 80th ASG shuttle bus service between SHAPE and Chièvres could experience delays.

Grandma's Attic is closed Thanksgiving Day and the week during Christmas. Open for extended hours Nov. 28 and during the PX Bazaar Dec. 5-6. Call DSN 423-4824 for info.

BOSS is collecting toys to be distributed to children at a local hospital during the holidays. Collection is in U.S. housing areas Nov. 22, or you can drop off toys at Chièvres library. Contact your unit BOSS representative for details.

Brussels Community Calendar

Marriage and family counseling is now available at NATO Health Clinic on Thursdays by appointment. Call 065 44-5801.

Youth basketball registration continues through Nov. 26 for 3-15 year olds. Cost is \$40 for YS registered youth and includes jersey. Call the Youth Sports office, DSN 368-9649.

NSA Education Center (2 717-9704)

ACS (02 717-9783) Metro Madness class, Nov. 21, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; Inter-

view Essentials Workshop, Nov. 18, noon-1:30 p.m., at NSA Old Sanctuary; Gaining the Professional Edge workshop, Nov. 19, 7-8:30 p.m., at NSA Old Sanctuary; Stress Management class, Nov. 18, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at NSA Chapel; NSA Newcomers' Briefing key agencies overview, Nov. 19, 8:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at NSA Building 3 conference room; Hospital tour and brief, Nov. 20, 9:30 a.m.-noon.

Brussels American Chapel (NSA) (02 707-

9677) Oct. 30: Parenting Today workshop. NSA Library (02 717-9705) Story Time for 3-5 year olds is back every Wednesday, 10:30-11 a.m.

New hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-5 p.m.; closed Monday and Friday.

Three Star Lounge (02 717-9822 or 9819) Movie Night with free popcorn every Thursday, 7:15 p.m., now open on Sunday at 7 p.m. for NFL.

NSA Multi-craft Shop (02 717-9629)

Auto Craft shop (02 717-9743)

Outdoor Recreation (02 717-9775 or 474 683 544) Paris, Nov. 29, 5 a.m.-11 p.m., \$35 for adults, \$29 for children; Charles Dickens Christmas Market, Dec. 6, 5 a.m.-11:45 p.m., adults Euro 45, children Euro 39.

For more information about events happening in the Brussels community, check out the web site at www.brussels.army.mil

254th BSB Community Calendar

Schinnen Bowling Center No-Tap Tournament Saturdays, 6 p.m., men-9 pins, women-8 pins, entry fee is \$15; "Turkey Bowl" during month of November, during open bowling a person who gets three strikes only pays one dollar per game.

School News Note to parents - school lets out early in November. Nov. 18-20 are early dismissal days at AFNorth International School. School is out at 12:25 p.m. and buses leave the parking lot at 12:35 p.m. Children will not be allowed off the bus once boarded. Parents collecting their children visit the office to sign them out. No temporary bus passes will be issued.

Community Bank in Schinnen has a training day Nov. 21 and will open at 1 p.m. The bank is closed Nov. 27.

Geilenkirchen community needs volunteers for Red Cross office manager; postal clerk at family support center; legal officer assistant. Call Kim Myers at Geilenkirchen FSC, 49 2451 63-3791.

Arts and Crafts Center at AFNorth Autumn arts and crafts festival Nov. 23, 2-6 p.m. Have a family fun day

with children's beading, Dutch roof tiles, greeting card design and much more. Regular Arts and Crafts Center schedule offers classes in oil, acrylic, egg tempera, and watercolor painting; drawing classes in pencil, oil pastel, chalk pastel and charcoal; try beginner ceramic pouring, dry brush painting, stained glass class or gem tree class; book restoration class Nov. 25, 6-9 p.m., cost is Euro 7. Info or registration: 31 45 526-2454.

Better Opportunity for Single Service Members meets every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at Treebeek Education Center, 2 p.m.

254th BSB Morale, Welfare and Recreation offers massage therapy and manicures. Info: 360-7236.

Classes offered: ASEP Personal Financial Management for NCOs I, Dec. 1-5, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - ASCI-401, Airport Development and Operations, Dec. 12-14, Geilenkirchen Education Center. Info: 49 2451 63-2247 or email ecay@erau.edu

Free developmental screening for

babies through 3 years. All U.S. sponsored families are eligible. Info: Mary Jo Rooney, 31 45 563-6126.

Job opportunities: Schinnen Commissary urgently needs baggers. To earn extra cash, call Gayle Phillips, 31 45 439-8390; Pin Point Café has positions for food service workers, call DSN 360-7202; Andrews Federal Credit Union has a full-time position for a service representative. Requires at least two years of prior financial institution experience. Call DSN 360-7507 or stop by AFCU.

Youth Activities

Teen Program: muffin baking class, Nov. 19, 2-6 p.m., youth center, Brunssum; wall climbing, Nov. 20, 2-6 p.m., youth center, Brunssum; in-line skating, games, movies and popcorn, Nov. 21, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; pool tournament, Nov. 24, 3:30-6 p.m., youth center, Brunssum; smoking cessation class, Nov. 25, 3:30-6 p.m., youth center, Brunssum; model car racing for teens, Nov. 26, 3:30-6 p.m., youth center, Brunssum; make your own sundae, Nov. 27, 3:30-6

p.m., youth center, Brunssum; teens game nite, Nov. 28, 6-9:30 p.m., youth center, Brunssum.

Youth Services Sports basketball clinic, Nov. 29, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., AFNorth School gym. Clinic is open to ages 8-15 years, call 31 45 526-3033.

Middle school and teen photo club meets Mondays and Fridays, 4-6 p.m., youth services, Brunssum. Call 045 526-3595.

Torch Club for grades 6-8 meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4-5 p.m., youth center, Brunssum.

"Smart Moves" program for girls grades 6-8 meets Wednesdays, 4-5 p.m., youth services, Brunssum.

Adult classes set

Unless otherwise indicated, classes are in ACS Building 39 at Schinnen, 046 443-7500.

A CPR class is twice a month in Geilenkirchen Clinic training room. The first Friday is for professional health care providers and the third Friday is a public Heart Saver class. Call 49 2451 99-3343 for more information.

Family Advocacy Program has stress management classes

monthly, every second Thursday, 10 a.m.-noon.

Employment Readiness Program has two workshops every Tuesday, "Finding Employment", 10 a.m.-noon; and "Hands on Resumix", 2-4 p.m.

Sponsorship training is every fourth Wednesday, 2-3 p.m.

Family Advocacy Program has anger management classes monthly, every third Thursday, 10 a.m.-noon.

Foreign Born Spouse Support Group meets every fourth Wednesday, 2 p.m.

Newcomers tour set

The next Newcomers' Orientation and Tour is Nov. 21, Schinnen Sports Center, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Protestant Women of the Chapel program night is Dec. 8, 6 p.m. at AFNorth Chapel in the American Fellowship Hall. Potluck - bring your favorite Christmas food to share, also candle exchange and carol sing. Contact Ann Wilson at aewilson24@yahoo.com or Jane Yasenchak at m.yasenchak@skynet.be or call the chapel office for contact phone numbers.





Goblins haunt military installations



PHOTOS: Sandy Aubrey

From left, Kelly Rhodes, Mary Sprinkle and Theresa Magiera look especially bewitching at Andrews Federal Credit Union in Schinnen.

SCHINNEN, The Netherlands - This year the Tri-border went all out to make Halloween a ghoulish affair for youngsters and adults alike. Over 300 kids and parents came out on a rainy night for thrills that abounded in a haunted area at the 254th Base Support Bn.

For those who couldn't handle the fear factor, children's games added to their excitement at the Sports Center Oct. 31. And the spooky creatures from the Bowling Center offered free cosmic bowling for children in costume.

The dental nightmare started at 5:30 p.m. with a Trunk or Treat and

creatures of the night decorated their car trunks and tables set up for sugar-deprived little witches, goblins and ghouls. Children in all manner of costume, ranging from an elaborate King Arthur to a simple mask, wound their way along dark paths at Schinnen in search of the irresistible allure of candy.

Other scary things happened in the community including adult Halloween parties Oct. 25 with DJ Keys at the Memories Lane Lounge and Oct. 31 at the Geilenkirchen Frisbee Club.



Batwoman Shuree Arett protected Schinnen Community Bank.

Timely estate planning can save family later grief

By Capt. Patrick Bowman

Some people say everyone does, while others say that you only need a will if you are married. There is no one answer, however, that fits all people in all circumstances. Each person's situation must be considered in determining what is necessary in his or her case. With this in mind, it is important to examine some of the myths and realities regarding wills.

A will is a legal document that disposes of your property upon your death. This is the primary purpose of a will, to determine who will get your car, VCR, CD and DVD collection, and so on. In addition, having a will is important to express your desires regarding the guardianship of any minor children you may leave behind. A will has no effect until the person who wrote it, known as the testator, dies. The testator can also revoke a will at any time prior to his death. Collectively, the property you own at the time of your death is referred to as your "estate."

Statistically, most people die "intestate," which means they pass away without a will. Because of this, all states have "intestacy laws," which are laws that set out who receives a person's property if he or she dies without a will. Many people incorrectly believe they do not need a will because state law automatically gives everything to their spouse, and if not all to their spouse then all to their children. If you die intestate, the state will distribute your property to your heirs according to the state's intestacy statutes. The statute might call for a distribution that is similar to what you want. Then again, it may not.

For example, under Georgia law, if a Georgia resident dies without a will, his entire estate does not automatically go to his spouse. Georgia law first looks to see if there are any surviving children. If there are surviving children, the children may receive up to one-half of the estate, which means that the spouse might only receive one-half. A 50-50 split between the spouse and the children might be desirable to

some, but undesirable to others.

Suppose a single Georgia resident with no children passed away without a will. Who would receive his estate? Under Georgia's intestacy laws, his parents would receive his estate in equal shares. Is it possible for the person's estate to be divided equally between one parent who raised him, and another parent who left the family before the person was even born? Under intestacy laws: yes. Would it matter that the absent parent failed to pay child support, never wrote, and never called? Under intestacy laws: no. This is another disadvantage of relying on state intestacy laws.

Put simply, anyone who disagrees with the intestate order of succession in his or her state needs a will. Otherwise, his or her estate will be distributed in an unsatisfactory manner.

Moreover, while intestacy statutes provide how the sum total of your property is to be divided among your heirs, they do not provide for who will get certain specific items of your property. This can lead to many problems. Your heirs may not agree on who will get certain items of your personal property. For example say you have inherited your grandmother's wedding ring and intend to pass it on to your daughter. If you die without a will saying that is what you want, your son may feel very strongly that his wife should have it. So even if you don't have a lot of assets, you may be concerned about making sure that certain items of your property go to the people that you want them to. You can do this in a will.

A common misconception about having a will is the idea that having a will causes your heirs to have to go through probate, and that it will be difficult and expensive. But if you die without a will, the court is still going to have to oversee the distribution of your assets to your heirs. There is absolutely no reason to think that this process is made easier or less expensive by your not having a will. In fact, it will probably be more expensive. For one thing, whoever administers

your estate will probably have to post a surety bond if you don't have a will. If you do have a will, not only can you choose the person who will administer your estate, you can provide that he or she will not have to post a surety bond.

Wills do more than distribute property. They can also be used to indicate a preference for guardianship of a minor child. Because children are not property, and because the judge is required to act according to "the best interests of the child," a will cannot automatically appoint a guardian. The will is an extremely strong indicator as to the parent's preference, however, and it is only overridden by the judge in unusual circumstances.

Let's now respond to the often-voiced viewpoint that "single Soldiers don't need a will". We can now see that this is incorrect in two major instances. First, if a single Soldier does not want her estate to pass by her state's intestacy laws, and wants her estate to be given all to her mother and none to her father for example, then she needs a will. Second, if a single Soldier has a minor child, a will is needed to express a preference regarding guardianship.

In conclusion, everyone should consider his or her own circumstances in deciding whether or not to have a will. More often than not, having a will is better than not having one, because ensures your property is distributed the way you want it to, and if you have a minor child it indicates whom you want to serve as guardian. Cost is not a factor, since wills prepared by the Legal Assistance Division are free to eligible clients. In fact, military will preparation saves money, as wills drafted by private civilian attorneys cost at least \$100 on average. Wills prepared by Army attorneys are valid in all fifty states.

Legal assistance is available at SHAPE by calling DSN 423-4868 for an appointment. Legal assistance is also available. At the Netherlands Law Center in Schinnen by calling DSN 364-6204.

Bowman is chief legal assistant at Northern Law Center

About Us



The *Benelux Meteor* is the authorized unofficial Army newspaper published under AR 360-1 for 80th Area Support Group personnel. Published 25 times a year under written agreement with *Stars and Stripes*, Germany, the editorial content is provided by the 80th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office and the 254th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office. Opinions expressed are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 80th Area Support Group. The *Benelux Meteor* is inserted every other Tuesday in the Benelux edition of the *Stars and Stripes*. Circulation is 3,000. Our mailing address is Editor, Benelux Meteor, HQ 80th ASG, Unit 21419, Public Affairs Office, APO AE 09708. Telephone: DSN 361-5419; fax: DSN 361-5106; civilian telephone prefix: 068-27-5419. The country code for Belgium is 0032.

Policy

- We invite and encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request, but we will not print any anonymous letters.
- We reserve the right to edit letters to make them fit the allotted space, to remove libelous material and to correct grammar. Letters should contribute to the informational interest of the issue in question.
- Articles and photographs may be submitted for consideration but publication and placement depends upon the judgment of the editor.
- Community-related event announcements must use civilian dates and times. Spell out acronyms initially and include a point of contact, telephone number and e-mail address.
- All submissions are subject to editing.

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Deadline

Copy and photographs are due by noon every other Friday.

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Native American culture captures Belgium



Photos by F. Neil Neeley

Michael Roberts, left photo, a member of the Great Plains Indian Dancers, performs at Hotel Maisieres Nov. 11. Roberts' wife Rebecca, right photo,

dances in a garment festooned with bells. The couple are from the Choctaw nation. The cultural troupe is traveling around Europe in honor of American Indian/Alaskan Native Heritage Month. They end their tour Dec. 1.

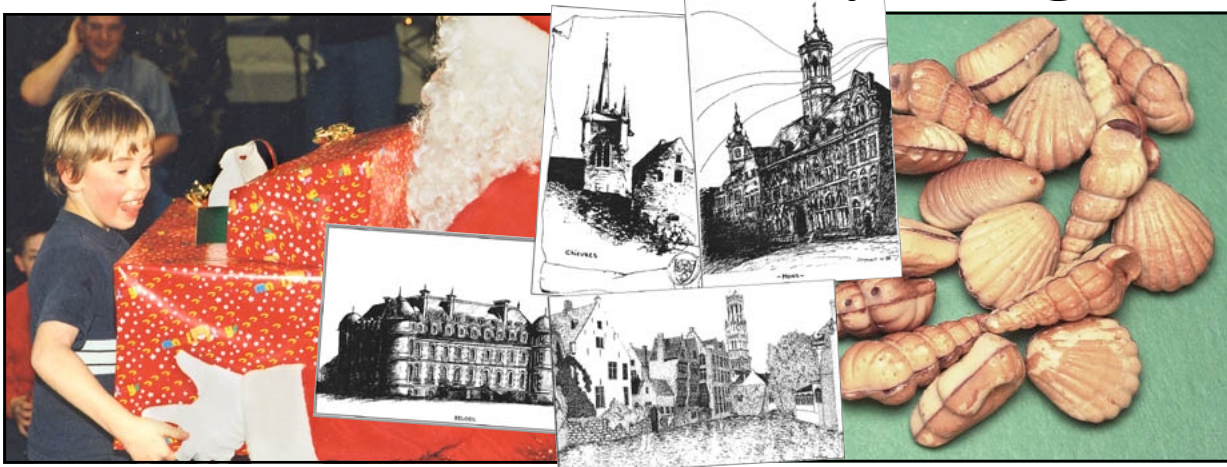
Toys, note cards, chocolates will make holidays brighter

The SHAPE and Chièvres U.S. communities have sponsored children at the orphanage La Fermette in Ath for more than 30 years.

The Orphans Program operates year round and the highlight is the Christmas party. The population of about 60 children submits two wishes for Christmas. Members of the U.S. community may sign up for a particular child. The list of wishes is at the 80th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office in Building 30 on Daumerie Caserne.

In order to give each child one gift, the 80th ASG is selling Belgian chocolates at \$5 or 5 Euros per box and sets of eight different local etchings at \$5 or 5 Euros per set.

Children will spend Dec. 17 afternoon on base, patiently waiting for Santa's arrival and distribution of the gifts. For information call DSN 361-5694 or commercial 068-275694 or email Francisca.Spook@benelux.army.mil



Benelux Meteor

2003-2004 Deadline and Publication Dates

Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date
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